

# Aotearoa Youth Network



March 1995 Number 22

# WHAT IS AOTEAROA YOUTH NETWORK?

The Aotearoa Youth Network is an organisation dedicated to building links between youth who are active in "progressive" politics. It is open to all and seeks to provide a place for discussion, learning and action across organisations, individuals and causes.

AYN was established at the 1993 Peace, Power and Politics Conference, where over 600 people (including over 150 young people) gathered. The main activity of AYN so far has been the production of a monthly newsletter, which presently goes to over 200 people, and reaches a far wider audience. AYN has established a positive presence in the progressive peoples' movement, and hopes to go beyond "networking" to assist in the formation of new organisations and groups.

We want to put anything in this magazine that you can write - news, articles, poetry, letters, anything. The more you write in, the more this magazine acts as a networking tool. We attempt to print anything you send without cutting but please note:

- We will not print anything that is overtly racist, sexist, homophobic or offensive to any marginalised group. If you want to debate issues that may offend people, try and be very clear about what you are trying to do, and why.

**Deadline: 20th April.**

Write to AYN at:  
c/- The Web Resource Centre  
111 Moray Place  
Dunedin.

## ACT'S POLICIES ARE A THREAT TO OUR VERY EXISTENCE!

**For employed workers:** Roger Douglas and others in ACT advocate the removal of any minimum wage, and the abolition of all tariffs. This would further expose us to direct competition with the low wage, no human rights Asian markets, forcing down wages and working conditions in NZ.

**For the unemployed:** ACT talks openly about forcing the unemployed to work for their dole and about cutting the time people spend on the dole to a minimum. This policy is a direct attack on unemployed people and on waged workers, it will force wages down, as well as punishing the unemployed for being out of work.

**In health:** Douglas actively encourages the complete withdrawal of Government from the health area. All aspects of health would become profit driven, adding an extra layer of cost to all users, and of course enabling a lot of money to be made by the owners of hospitals, other providers and health insurance companies.

**In education:** The Douglas policy is that families and students will have to purchase education. Schools, universities, kindergartens and kohanga reo would of necessity become profit driven, dependant on their ability to attract the highest number of students and the highest possible fees.

**Benefits:**  
Donna Awatere supports of policy of doing away

with the DPB altogether. All benefits and allowances for people under 18 would be abolished. ACT's health and education policies all revolve around maximised targeting.

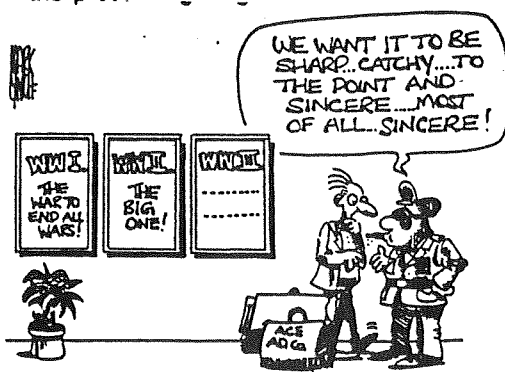
**Housing:** ACT seeks full market rents for state housing (what remains of it), alongside a sell off all state houses except for a core 10,000 to be used only for emergency and special needs accommodation.

**Immigration:** ACT wants to make a lot of money out of importing 5,000 immigrants a year who will pay \$600,000 each for the privilege. Are these the type of people we should be supporting as new immigrants to Aotearoa? How do tangata whenua feel about this proposal? What sort of country will we find ourselves living in if this proposition went ahead?

**ACT's strategy for implementing its policies is as dangerous as the policies themselves.**

In his book 'Unfinished Business' Roger Douglas says, "Speed is essential. It is almost impossible to go too fast... Make your next decision while opponents are still struggling against the last one." This indicates to us that if ACT ever achieved power, even as part of a right wing coalition, they would try and implement their

polices so quickly that it would be a form of legislative blitzkrieg, rolling swiftly over opposition from any quarter.  
**DON'T LET  
ACT FOOL  
PEOPLE!**



CounterACT

# THE FISCAL ENVELOPE: A PAKEHA RESPONSE.

As Pakeha New Zealanders we are angry and ashamed that the Government has proposed to deal with Treaty grievances in the way that it has.

As tau iwi citizens of this nation, and parties by inheritance to the Treaty of Waitangi, we abhor the way Government has dishonoured our position to act in good faith to reach a settlement of claims and to honestly and fairly address Maori grievances.

We are angry and ashamed that the Fiscal Envelope and other matters contained in the Crown's proposals were not developed in the name of tau iwi New Zealanders who are genuinely concerned about the promises of the Treaty of Waitangi and its guarantee of tino rangatiratanga.

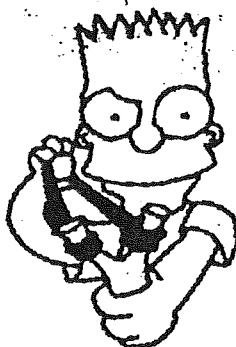
The Fiscal Envelope, although quite wrongly, has been put on the table. It is now for Maori to choose whether or not to reject the "offer". Quite clearly they are rejecting it and we fully understand and support those reasons.

These reasons include: the totally unjustifiable low fiscal cap; the incredibly racist approach to natural resources which suggests that every society in the world, bar Maori, are permitted to have advanced beyond the technology available in 1840; the high handed "take it or leave it" approach; the total ignoring of the Treaty which meant Sovereignty, and Maori control over many important areas (eg. language, culture, justice systems, education) are not even allowed to be discussed in what is supposed to be a "final settlement".

However, it is not for us, as tau iwi, to reject the envelope, that is

something Maori are doing loudly, clearly, and with admirable restraint. Those of us who support an honourable Treaty settlement should be supporting this decision, whatever it is, but acknowledging that it is not our decision to make.

For us the most important part is that any settlement should be between tau iwi and Maori, not something developed unilaterally by the National Government to represent the position of neither tau iwi or Maori. It is clear that those within Government who are pushing this proposal have neither understanding of, nor commitment to, the Treaty of



Waitangi. It would be better if they either took advice from people who knew what they were talking about or got out of the way and let pakeha and other tau iwi who actually have a commitment seek to address the issues.

We, as two pakeha New Zealanders declare that the Government is not acting in our name.

The proposal has been developed by the Crown and presented to Maori from a

unilateral position. It is clear that this is unacceptable both in terms of the process of development and in the substance of the proposals.

Doing it properly would mean allocating resources to Maori to develop their own process and proposals for settlement which in a fair procedure should be the starting point for negotiation.

It will mean educating ourselves about what the Treaty is and what the Treaty means and as tau iwi what our rights and obligations are.

## NOT KNOWING IS NOT ENOUGH.

The fact is that it has taken 155 years for the process of ignoring Treaty obligations and proceeding with colonisation to get where we are. There is not such a hurry to settle (especially simply as a vote catching exercise) that the process need in any way be compromised (as has happened) and thereby compromises the result.

We ask that all tau iwi give support to the Not In Our Name campaign (see AYN no. 21) for educating and informing tau iwi New Zealanders towards their obligations as inheritors of the Treaty promisees.

We are adamant that the Government has acted wrongly, has not acted in good faith or in a spirit of true negotiation or partnership.

The Government has not acted in our name.

• Alistair Shaw and Christina  
Rizos, Wellington.

# Landmark report on Stratford CO<sub>2</sub> emissions

On 20 February the Board of Inquiry into the air discharge effects from ECNZ's proposed 400MW natural gas fired power station at Stratford made its findings public. Its no-nonsense report should prove to be the most significant attempt to date to internalise costs for fossil fuel generation in this country.

ECNZ is the corporatised national generator producing 95% of the nation's power. ECNZ uses averaged wholesale pricing and thereby effectively bars new entrants. The natural gas it seeks to burn at Stratford is purchased from the government at 50% of its market value under a contract which continues until 2012.

The application by ECNZ for resource consents to discharge CO<sub>2</sub> and other contaminants is made under the Resource Management Act 1991, Aotearoa / New Zealand's environmental planning legislation. The Board of Inquiry's report is titled 'Proposed Taranaki Power Station - Air Discharge Effects: Report and Recommendations'. The 236 page report is available from the Ministry for the Environment, PO Box 10 362 Wellington for \$20 plus \$2 postage.

It is Environment Minister Simon Upton who will decide whether to issue resource consents with, or without, binding CO<sub>2</sub> mitigation conditions to ECNZ. Equally he could reject the application, which would strongly discourage similar proposals. The Board of Inquiry's function was simply to assess the evidence presented and make recommendations. The Minister

has 20 working days, extendable by a further 20 working days, in which to act. A decision should be made by 17 April at the latest.

The Board raised, without prompting, the concept of *kaitiakitanga*, defined as "descriptive of the relationships between *Tarankai tangata whenua* and *te taiao* (the environment)" and added this to their terms of reference.

The Board found that:

- "The level of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the proposed power station would be approximately 1.5 million tonnes per annum." (p224)
- That in the long term there is the strong possibility that the plant would increase New Zealand's emission of CO<sub>2</sub> significantly (p225).
- That the ECNZ forecasts for electricity demands "cannot be given any weight" (p226).
- That the proposal that the power station was the only viable option was not established (p226).
- That the adverse environmental effects could be offset by extensive and ongoing tree planting (p227).

Overall recommendations by the



Board:

"Our broad recommendation is that the application be granted subject to a condition to mitigate the effects of the CO2 emissions, and a set of other conditions primarily to deal with local effects of the discharge of other contaminants. If we (the Board) had reached the view that there was no jurisdiction for the Minister to impose the mitigation condition we would have recommended the consent be refused. Additionally, and for reasons given in the proceeding section of this Report, we recommend the issue of a national policy statement on CO2 discharges." (p227)

More specifically:

"The consent holder shall establish a carbon sink sufficient to eventually store in perpetuity the equivalent quantity of carbon emitted from the site over the term of the permit". (p228)

The Board then proposes a monitoring authority of "evaluation board" to oversee the carbon sink plan using forest planting and to ensure the plan is both feasible and adhered to. The Board also recommends that central government produce national policy on CO2 emissions.

The Board opted for full "offset" for the CO2 emissions from the proposed station, using forest planting that would not otherwise have proceeded. In other words, ECNZ can not simply point out that others are growing trees. Energy campaigners view these findings as a very significant attempt to internalise the costs for fossil fuel use. Analysts suggest full mitigation for CO2 will add 20% to the cost of Stratford. This additional margin places the viability of the project in question, particularly with wind power declining in cost and demand management (efficiency and conservation) potentially significant, provided that sensible

market reforms take place.

The Board also slammed ECNZ's demand projections as worthless. Energy campaigners suggest the low quality of evidence submitted by ECNZ now places it in breach of the State Owned Enterprises Act requirement to act in a socially responsible manner, and that the Minister needs to tighten ECNZ's statement of Corporate Intent.

#### **Urgent Action before April 1995:**

Write to the Prime Minister, and say either:

- NO to Stratford. Say that the report shows we have alternatives that do not emit CO2, that you do not wish to

lock up land in forest plantations forever thereby depriving future generations of alternative uses, and that we need a national CO2 policy statement urgently OR

- The government MUST impose the mitigation conditions set out by the Board of Inquiry, and that we need a national CO2 policy statement urgently.
- Publicise the issue in whatever way you know best!

**WELL DONE TO ALL THOSE WHO CAMPAIGNED ON STRATFORD!**

- **Robbie Morrison, Te Whanga-nui-a-Tara.**

**W O R K  
C O N S U M E  
W A T C H T V  
L I F E  
B E G I N S W I T H  
R E V O L T**

And the revolt starts here! Over Easter Weekend, April 14-17, anarchists from all over Aotearoa will be gathering in Wellington to learn, teach and organise. So be a part of it, and join the fight for real freedom.

**COMMITTEE FOR THE  
ESTABLISHMENT  
OF CIVILISATION**

PO Box 14-156, Kābirimie, Wellington or phone Sam Buchanan on 389-1231  
E-mail [aaa@nubm.wgtn.planet.co.nz](mailto:aaa@nubm.wgtn.planet.co.nz)

(WTO) created to enforce the new trade rules, will become a powerful, unelected, global legislative body. Neither MPs nor the general public has had any effective input into the decision making process. The N.Z. government can sign international treaties without recourse to Parliament.

### WE NEED A FULL SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, POLITICAL, CULTURAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT!

**OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCES** rests with the two Treaty of Waitangi partners, so "it is morally unacceptable for the Crown Treaty partner to enter into an international agreement which could allow for our country's natural resources to be commercially exploited by outsiders without consultation with the Iwi Treaty partners" (Aroha Mead). Neither National Maori Congress nor other tribal organisations have been approached to establish a negotiating team.

**THIRD WORLD:** The people of developing countries subsidise the over-consumption in industrialised countries by providing cheap raw materials and labour, while locked into a vicious debt repayment cycle.

There is no level playing field in global free trade. Even the World Bank has conceded that the Third World countries, especially in Africa, will be net losers from the GATT

Uruguay Round. Developing countries are worst affected by the new policies, but have little influence on their formulation.

### THE CHALLENGE

To seek ways - by developing a *fair* trade system - to narrow the global gap between power and accountability, resources and responsibility, in the interests of the poor world-wide. A sustainable environment requires less, not more consumption, especially by the rich countries.

We need to chart alternative paths committed to sustainable development, social justice and participatory democracy.

### WHAT WE CAN AND NEED TO DO

- Write/ring for more information. Spread the word. Ask us for a speaker to facilitate discussion in whatever group you are part of.
- Write to your local MP and the Minister of Trade Negotiations, Philip Burdon, voicing your disquiet and demanding a full impact report, as well as public disclosure and debate.
- Help us with a donation to continue our work of providing information.

**GATT WATCH - TAMAKI MAKAUARAU,**  
P.O. Box 5510, Wellesley St., Auckland.  
Tel/fax: 09 377 5541; Tel. 09 378 9816.

Or: Christchurch: 03 366 2803/366 9274.

## WHAT IS GATT?

## WHY THE SECRECY?

## PLUNDER OR PLENTY?

Why has there not been any debate in Parliament or informed public debate before our Government signed the latest GATT URUGUAY ROUND?

**GATT:** Since the 1940s the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade has sought to set rules for trade and press governments to reduce barriers to trade in goods. The latest Uruguay round has added rules for the elimination of barriers to trade in agriculture, services, intellectual property rights, and investment.

**IS GATT ABOUT FREE TRADE** or does it further increase the stranglehold that huge transnational companies already have on trade and essential technologies? Who benefits most?

**TRANSNATIONALS (TNCs)** are huge companies which operate around the world, and already control the majority of trade. Five companies produce 77% of the world's cereals, three companies 85% of the tea and three 80% of the bananas. Over 70% of world trade occurs between TNCs and their branches. The

sole purpose is to maximise profits. The TNCs have the power, but are not politically accountable; they have the resources, but no social responsibility.

### What we can expect:

**FURTHER MASSIVE JOB LOSSES**, and lowering of wages, as it becomes even easier for companies to relocate worldwide wherever the wages are lowest, labour conditions poorest, environmental standards lowest.

**DOMESTIC PRODUCERS** will be swallowed up more easily by transnationals.

The Government's estimate of a possible 20,000 to 30,000 new jobs in the next decade as a result of GATT, don't even replace the 40,000 jobs lost in the manufacturing sector alone between 1988 and 1993, when barriers to imports were broken down.

**INCOME AND WEALTH INEQUALITIES** in both industrialised and poor countries will be intensified. Already the gap between rich and poor in our country has increased markedly since the late 1980s as a result of free market policies.

**ANY LOCAL OR NATIONAL HEALTH, SAFETY OR ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS** that exceed international standards may be challenged as trade barriers and are likely to reduce to the lowest common denominator globally. Do we want meat full

of bovine growth hormones; tuna captured by methods that endanger dolphins; unfettered import or export of native or tropical timbers?

There will be no barriers left to foreign control of our **NATURAL RESOURCES**, like forestry, and to the buying up of more high country stations.

**CONTROL OF SEEDS, PLANTS, AND LIVESTOCK** will be concentrated further in the hands of the biotechnology industry. Biological diversity of plant life will be reduced even further, with farmers having to use hybrids and genetically manipulated species.

**LIFEFORMS**, The multi-million dollar US-Government supported TNC Human Genome Diversity Project is collecting samples from "endangered" and unique communities, to be stored in gene banks in the North. Products and processes extracted from these could have great commercial value. The material may end up being patented.

Life forms should not be patented. Organisms, their parts, processes and products should remain beyond ownership and commercial exploitation.

**ENVIRONMENT:** There is an inherent contradiction between the philosophy of free trade and a sustainable environment. E.g, the push from industry to increase exports, and protecting our fishing resource from over-

fishing. Sustainable and organic agriculture is threatened too.

The **annual WORLD MARKET FOR MEDICINES** derived from medicinal plants discovered by indigenous people is US\$43 billion. Indigenous people received less than 0.001% of the profits.

**SERVICE INDUSTRIES**, like tourism, transport, communications, etc., provide 70% of our employment. Foreign providers will run services as part of their international service using their own workers.

**EDUCATION** will increasingly become a trading commodity, privatised and "global", threatening the survival of our cultural values and unique identities.

**OUR BANKING AND FINANCE SECTOR** is almost fully foreign-owned now. GATT will put the N.Z. people totally at the mercy of foreign financial interests.

**HUMAN AND SOCIAL CONCERNS** are of no account. The promotion of "free trade" is the overriding concern, and will be placed above all other public interests. People will lose their right to decide when trade interests should receive priority and when not.

**OUR NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND DEMOCRATIC WAY OF LIFE** is being eroded as the World Trade Organisation



# The Fiscal Envelope, the "dignity of protest," the Maaori Nation, (and the Pakeha future).

In the wake of the Waitangi day celebrations and mass Maaori rejection of the Government's Fiscal Envelope Maaori activists campaigning for a self-determining Maaori Nation have won a relatively high media profile. This attention, however, has not always led to a greater understanding of their claims. A common response is the attempt to marginalise the voices / actions of protesters and their achievements. In one of his responses to the occupation of Moutoua Gardens in Wanganui Prime Minister Jim Bolger called upon traditional Maaori leadership - elders and kaumatua - to assert their authority (or else risk another Bastion Point) thereby implying that the activists are in some way an immature or marginal section of the iwi involved. The Government was claiming that it could only talk to reasonable people. Similarly, on Waitangi Day, television news coverage dedicated its 22 inches of space to saliva and the physical stand off between protesters and riot police with little or no mention of the applause from the audience as the various Maaori flags were raised and the military flags lowered.

It was to shed light on these personal drams and above all to provide a personal perspective upon protest, their rejection of the

Fiscal Envelope, and the campaign for an independent Maaori Nation that Eva Rickard and Hone Harawira addressed an evening Forum at the University of Otago on Wednesday March 15. This followed on from the Waitangi weekend hui held at Kaitaia, "The Maori Nation: where to from here," where Harawira was the convenor. The purpose of the hui was to allow those Maaori not involved in the deals struck by their leaders to speak about their own destiny.

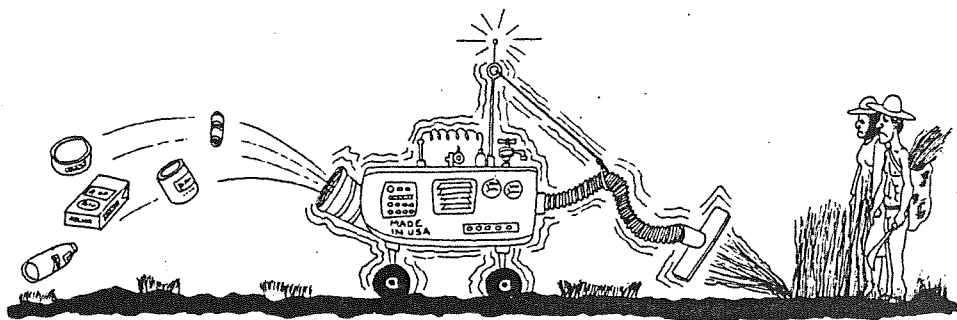
Some of the main points were as follows:

1. **The kaupapa of the Fiscal Envelope.** This is but the most recent in a long line of Government initiatives to take things away from Maaori. For instance; sovereignty, land, language, and now Treaty rights. The history of injustice is an unbroken history. Harawira demonstrated this is his anecdote about Doug Graham's Great Grandfather, a storekeeper in Kororareka (Russell), who fled when the town was raised by Heke and Kawiti on March 11 1845. 150 years later Northland Maaori again rebutter the Grahams by refusing to accept Doug Graham at their hui.

## 2. The "dignity" of protest.

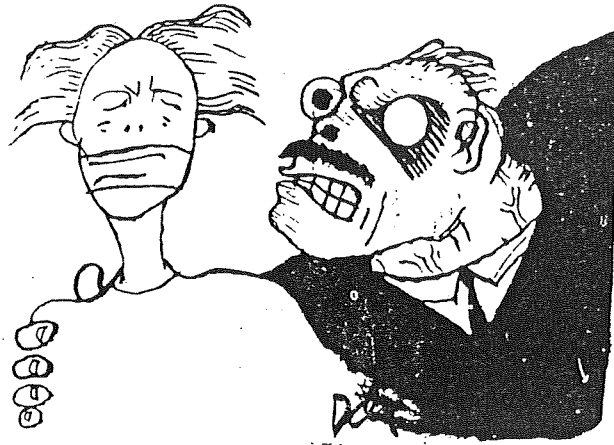
The media and a number of Maaori and Pakeha critics have condemned gestures such as spitting or the baring of buttocks as undignified or offensive forms of protest (out of line with traditional practices). Harawira defended the actions of Maaori on the marae at Waitangi, (his home marae), by questioning the contemporary function of the powhiri (welcome): although certain tikanga (practices) may have changed certain kaupapa (principles) are ongoing. The powhiri is a place for being serious. The need to identify these principles is crucial for future negotiation and development. Rickard added that rejections of protest are usually based on ignorance, citing the failure of a hui in the Maniapoto to recognise the flag of Te Kooti, the founder of their meeting house. Haka are another form of protest. So long as they remain untranslated, many politicians smile benignly at haka which vehemently attack and condemn them - physically before their eyes. However, to Pakeha ears, something is lost in the translation (-perhaps ignorance?).

3. **They are pro Treaty.** It is important to establish a 'contractual arrangement' so that Maaori and Pakeha can map their futures. For this reason the treaty is a prerequisite to an





NZ / Aotearoa "nation." Pakeha need to think about their parliamentary system. Are we to be, as Bolger likes to claim, an Asian Republic? Why not a Pacific Republic?



*I didn't hear you say UNION Did I say?*

and spreading stories and optimism and of retaining faith in protest.

#### Comment and response.

As a Pakeha listener / observer I was especially curious to understand what these issues might mean for Pakeha - according to Maaori. Although the speakers were addressing themselves primarily to Maaori a number of interesting points of direct concern to Pakeha were made. Harawira acknowledged the need to teach / reach pakeha but stressed the importance of speaking first to his own people, those with

whom he communicates best. Talking to pakeha is not a priority. The foremost issue here is the Maaori nation. Harawira rejected claims by Pakeha, such as Jim Bolger, that they are themselves Tangata Whenua: 'You can have a litter of kittens born in a banana box but that doesn't make them bananas.'

Statements such as the 'Banana Box' metaphor have in the past been interpreted as being narrowly racist and divisive statements asserting that nothing can 'overcome the biological foundation of ethnicity.' These are the fears which are most commonly raised in letters to the editor and are best summed up by the group of pakeha at Moutoa Gardens demanding "one nation, one people, one law." (Sunday Times March 19) However, the message on this occasion was not so much a rejection and rebuttal of Pakeha but a challenge to reconsider the future of Aotearoa / New Zealand.

Pakeha / Government claims that protest and rejection of the Fiscal Envelope are barriers to productive dialogue are irrelevant. Rickard: "What part of 'no' don't

4. It is not possible to establish this 'contractual arrangement' or genuine agreement and participation in a society built on the dollars which create greed, power and corruption (amongst both Maaori and Pakeha). Both Rickard and Harawira condemned the 'deals' made without consultation, the profit mongering of Sea(Lords) Lawyers, and especially the actions of Tainui who have already arranged a deal. According to Harawira, mana is not equal to money. Protest, this was Rickard's point, is about caring and support.

"smokescreen" which obscures other pressing issues such as the GATT, Intellectual Property Rights, and foreign ownership. Rickard challenged listeners to consider the way in which these issues might be linked. Is Aotearoa / New Zealand to be the testing round for the new global economy? Recently, a Japanese interest attempted to buy the Williams' Maaori Dictionary!

5. Rickard proclaimed the advent of a New Maaori Nation in 1996. Waitangi Day will continue, regardless of what the Crown does with the celebration, as a symbol of Maaori determination to build their own movements and a different system for survival. This involves describing 'the vision that we all have' and reaching 'beyond the ordinary.' This means not letting go of the past, as psychotherapists might advise, but seeing the past, the present, and the future as a continuum. The past cannot be out away; any more than Rickard can put away the memory of her family's suffering at Rangiriri during the invasion of the Waikato. The past is a legacy: one may forgive but not forget.

7. Harawira stressed the need to avoid the 'tribal kick' arguing that tribal identity should take a step down in the interests of wider unity. He cited the warnings of visiting South African lawyers concerning tribalism. However, as Rickard pointed out 'we are a lot of tribes', rather than one people, each of which must negotiate its own claims. There was also the question of decolonisation. Rickard prefers to see herself as a 'radical native' rather than a 'conservative Maaori.'

6. The Fiscal Envelope is a

8. The importance of sharing

# Don't Steal



## The Business Roundtable hates competition

you understand?" The Crown has no place to negotiate the Maaori future. According to Rickard, Pakeha are locked into an old sovereignty. They must seek a path for themselves and shake off their old / own fears before Maaori and Pakeha can go forward.

What does this mean? Implicitly, it is necessary for Pakeha to do as Maaori are doing and to talk amongst themselves about their future. In this respect the debate surrounding republicanism is of interest and should perhaps be developed, (even it means intensifying Bolger's smugness...) the Waitangi Day flag protest illustrates the point that current Pakeha conceptions of nationhood and sovereignty are probably a barrier to agreement. We also require a vision, a 'different system for survival', an acknowledgment of the legacy of the past, and a path for the future.

Rickard suggested looking to the Pacific rather than to Asia where the gaze of Commerce, Business, and Xenophobia is currently fixed. In New Caledonia, for instance, a settler society of French origin has also been forced in recent decades to confront the question of its own identity - both in relation to an outmoded imperial relationship with France but also in relationship to the formulation and assertion of a Kanak identity. What is being demanded in both these places is not mere accommodation to Kanak / Maaori demands in financial or geographical terms but a

significant reconceptualisation of our sense of nation or nationalism. Why should the idea of a Maaori nation be considered an impossibility or a threat? Rickard points out that already some landowners are prepared to pay rental for the confiscated land upon which they live.

The media portrays radical Maaori activism as divisive and obstructive. If we actually listen to Rickard and Harawira it is neither of these things. It is, however, a challenge to both Maaori and Pakeha which should not be ignored. 155 plus years have proven certain institutions (legal and governmental), relationships (racial, colonial and commercial) to be incapable of remedying certain longstanding injustices. It is perhaps time to listen to different ideas.

Is this talk of an alternative visions, of alternative structures, and a new future anything more than idealism? It is important to realise that the concept of nation building is an ideal and that one writer has recently argued nations are "imagined communities" or artificial constructs. Nevertheless, the challenge should still be taken seriously. Perhaps, however, we lack the necessary imagination. For instance, many Pakeha are content to refer to the injustices experienced by those of Irish Catholic or Highland Scots descent. This establishes a (respectable) parallel history of injustice as well as a link with subversive alternative traditions. It

is well to be aware of these parallels as the romance of the Gaelic / Celtic heritage for we all require some respectable historical / spiritual territory. However, this vision of the past is not enough: the way we think about our future identity is important.

Thinking about the future means confronting the history of all Pakeha in New Zealand. The presence of Irish Catholics and Scots blood cannot exonerate all or any Pakeha, many of whom are not of British descent. New Zealand / Aotearoa is an island and we all arrived here, or are descended from people who arrived here, with certain expectations about the society they / we wanted to create or live in; about the better future they / we wanted. Often these ideas were implemented at the expense of others who had arrived earlier. There were many injustices and these were often consciously inflected - they were more than mistakes and were not always based on blissful ignorance. This happened very recently (in the space of two or three generations) and it is still happening.

It is not too late to change. It would be a mistake to perpetuate grievances by attempting to bury the past. The Fiscal Envelope attempts to do this. Conflicts in places such as Ireland and Central Europe are a reminder to us that time does not wash away the bad blood of the past - often grievances, inequalities, and injustices become entrenched. For

## USER PAYS EDUCATION DISADVANTAGES WOMEN

The Todd Taskforce refused to consider the specific needs of women when recommending fee increases.

52% of university students are women, but women account for only 45% of masters students and 35% of doctorate students.

The disclosure of personal details required to gain an allowance is invasive. Criterion are narrow & exclude many people.

It is more difficult for women to fund their education with part time work and holiday work. Many of the types of jobs offered to women have lower rates of pay.

As the majority of primary caregivers, women with children face the extra financial and time commitments of childcare.

Only 75% of women will get a job on graduation compared with 90% of male graduates.

A male graduate will earn an average 44% more than a woman with similar qualifications. Consequently, women will take longer to pay back loans & will actually pay more due to the compound interest.

It cannot be assumed that these issues are exactly the same for Maori women. The education system in its current form reflects a history of colonisation. As tangata whenua, issues for Maori in tertiary education cannot be separated from wider social, political and cultural issues. These issues may weigh against Maori women entering university. In redressing these issues Maori must be included in decisions over the type of resources that are available and how they are allocated.

this reason we need to find a way to talk openly about our past, present, and future which allows for change. We need to think again about what we want from the future. We need to stop patting ourselves on the back and lauding the achievements of the past which have been washed away with the demise of the welfare state and initiate new ideas instead of carrying on in the same old way.

How are we to do this? Clearly, we cannot rely upon the government to act for and represent us. Recent experience has shown that they are unresponsive to their electors. Maori appear to have an advantage in that for many the marae and hui provide a forum in which they can speak and listen to their fellows - they are also much fewer in number. What do we have? The Westminster System? I am not sure what the answer or the best alternative structure would be. However, I hope that others in the network will be able to share any ideas and thoughts that they may have on these issues. I am curious to know what visions other people have for the future.

• **Adrian Muckle, Otepoti.**

## REGIONAL NEWS:

### Auckland

Auckland University Students have been busy working on a whole range of things. These include the Next Step Campaign, organising a conference for student activists in the Asia Pacific region (timed to coincide with the Asia Development Bank Meeting), getting Special Benefits for students and organising actions against Fletcher Challenge.

Counter ACT has continued to protest at ACT meetings. At one meeting, Sue Bradford from Counter ACT and Auckland Unemployed Workers Rights Centre was attacked by Donna Awatere's husband, who got diversion. Counter ACT member feel that if any of them had carried out a similar assault, they would be in jail now!

### Wellington

On March 30 a Maori group picketed the Te Puni Kokiri offices, while a group from Not In Our Name (see AYN 21) protested outside the Ministry of Justice, both acting against the Fiscal Envelope. 1000 to 2000 University

Students marched against fees and the increase in Loan interest rates on March 8. A Radical Society has been formed at Victoria University and is Campaigning on the Fiscal Envelopes, Fees, the lack of space for Women on Campus, and a whole range of issues.

### Dunedin

University students have been busy working on special benefits. A City Council plan to ban skateboarders (read young people) from the Octagon (city centre) failed miserably! On March 3, 20 plus from the Student Green Movement occupied ECNZ buildings in protest at the beginning of 'test drilling' at the 'proposed' Tuapeka Dam. The same day around 30 students from the Maori Students Association picketed Te Puni Kokiri, charging it with complicity in the Governments Fiscal Envelope.

On March 21 11 people attended the first in a series of Non Violence Workshops organised by the VOICE project. Between 20 and 50 people have been attending Education Campaign planning meetings.

# US Student demo attacked by Police

Approximately 80 Antioch College students were brutally attacked and beaten by police officers following a peaceful protest in Columbus on Saturday, February 18. Students gathered at the federal Building in downtown Columbus, which houses the offices of 12th district Representative Kasich, to protest proposed Congressional cuts in federal student aid programmes. Representative Kasich chairs the House Budget Committee, and is a co-author of the Penny-Kasich Amendment to the Fiscal Responsibility Act, one of ten bills which comprise the Contract with America. Under the Penny-Kasich Amendment, federal student aid programs would be eliminated and federal subsidisation of student loans would be discontinued, allowing interest to accrue of student loans while students attend school. Student Aid Action had called this demonstration to coincide with student protests at the last of the House Budget Committee hearings in Billings, Montana.

For several hours preceding the

incident, students lined the sidewalk's in front of and across from the Federal Building, chanting slogans, holding signs, and distributing leaflets to bypassers. A smaller group of students hung a banner from a second story balcony. While spirited, students were peaceful, positive, and benign.

Suddenly, and seemingly without reason, the situation escalated into police violence. A student was arrested on the balcony, allegedly for trespassing. Students moved across the street to mass at the base of the stairs leading to the balcony. Another student was thrown to the ground, beaten, and cuffed. Mounted police charged the crowd, though no order was given to disperse. Officers pulled out canisters of mace and teargas, and began aggressively spraying and gassing students at dangerously close range. In the ensuing melee, many students were gassed, maced, kicked, and beaten by the police. In all, nine arrests were made - seven on misdemeanour counts, and two on felony counts.

This completely unwarranted and unprovoked act of aggression on the part of the Columbus Police is an outrage, and an affront to human and civil liberties. Student Aid Action is an Antioch College based student group working to mobilise nationwide student opposition to proposed federal student aid cuts. Student Aid Action functions as a clearing house and coordination center for students organising around these issues.

• **Student Aid Action,  
Columbus, USA.**

"We were demonstrating peacefully outside repr. Kasich's office in the afternoon. Some kids had gone up on to a balcony / terrace and hung a banner off the federal building, a security guard had warned them not to, that they would be trespassing. The cops arrived gradually at first, told us not to go in the street to give fliers to the drivers. We complied, things were chill. More and more cops showed up though. Pretty soon there were two paddy wagons and

Since the mid 1980s user pays has been the focus of government policy in Aotearoa/ New Zealand. User pays theory assumes that everyone has the same ability to make market choices and purchase the public services that they require. The government calls this 'the level playing field'. In practice, however, everyone does not have the same financial resources. Aotearoa/ New Zealand was not an equal society when these policies began and user pays has exacerbated social inequality.

## EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IS A MYTH!

Produced by OUSA Womens Rights Collective, 1995.

3 cops on horses. Then there was an arrest on the balcony, Renee had refused to take down a banner or something. I was watching the cops lead her away when someone started screaming terribly. I ran to the corner (I was about half way down the block). I thought maybe one of the horses had gotten out of control and stepped on someone. What I saw was Jerry in a circle of cops on horses, with his shirt off getting sprayed with pepper spray.

Everyone was screaming, and cops were indiscriminately spraying people in the eyes with pepper. I saw Matthew Arnold go out with a sign in front of his eyes to try and help Jerry and a cop on horseback circled round behind him and sprayed pepper in his eyes. Peter Bradley went out to try and help Jerry, a cop on horseback backhanded him. I was so angry. I looked around for something to throw, finding nothing I ran to the side of the corner to shout at a cop something like "you fucking bastards, leave us alone, and 'rich, poor, black, white, education is our right". Standing about 14 inches from some cop who was holding the crowd back, yelling at him, I saw one cop run up with about four large canisters and hand one to the cop closest to me. I realised they were going to spray the crowd with this shit (tear gas as it turned out).

I yelled that they were going to do this and ran to the back of the crowd. At the back Dave McClusker and Jude Demers were crying and screaming because some cops had maced them. So was Art Friedrick. I ran across the street to Kinko's to get water for these people's eyes/ The air stung like hell cause of the teargas, but I was wearing sunglasses luckily. They started trying to clear us out after that and Matthew Arnold, Wyatt, Platt and I jumped into Platt's car. We motored around the block and met up with the police herding people up the street. Somehow another nasty scene

broke out and they started macing people again. I saw seven cops jump on someone. Dana was running away from some cops, and they jumped on her and arrested her for no reason. Three of them piled on to her and wrenched her arms behind her back. After that Elliott ran up and got in the car, and things basically calmed down. We went back to the site and picked up the stuff that had been abandoned, and found other people. 9 people were arrested, Gerry [inciting a riot and resisting arrest], Jude [inciting a riot] (who are still being held because they have been charged with felonies), Clare Mills (ostensibly arrested for crossing the street), Tim Benedict (who was held by the cops and sprayed in the face with tear gas), Dana, Xiamara, Aurora Grey, Renee and Josh Steiner.

The faculty is helping us out, telling us about tactics, helping us to file a class action suit against the police. Bail money is tricky, they may ask thousands of dollars to get Gerry out of jail. He is being kept in isolation. I'm so angry."

## GREEK POLICE USE TEARGAS ON PENSIONERS

On March 9, Greek Riot Police fired several rounds of teargas and scuffled with a group of about 1,000 senior citizens who were demonstrating in central Athens to demand higher pensions.

Police said they fired the teargas to stop the pensioners pushing through police lines to go to the official residence of socialist Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou, 76. Four people were slightly hurt in the scuffles. Govt. spokesman Evangelos Venizelos told reporters the public order ministry would investigate whether there was any need for the police to use teargas and expressed the government's regret over the incident. He said Papandreou agreed to meet the pensioners next week to discuss their demands. On March 10, two police generals were suspended from duty.

## MEXICAN SOLIDARITY PROTEST

On March 6, the Committee for the Establishment of Civilisation organised a demo in the Mexican Embassy. People from Latin American Solidarity Committee, Wellington Rainforest Action Group and Amnesty also came along. In all there were 10 of us. We went into the Embassy with placards and demanded to see the Ambassador.

We stayed in the Embassy for close to an hour handing out leaflets to the staff. We also took along a letter of resignation for the Ambassador as the Zapatistas had asked people to do this. He refused to come out of his office because we didn't have an appointment!

We have made an appointment for this Friday to talk to him about his impending resignation and also to give him a large pile of information (especially from Amnesty) about human rights abuses in Mexico as the embassy staff denied that Amnesty International was concerned about the Mexican Government.

Lyn and Mark.

# US Students act against 'contract with America'

The 'Contract with America' currently under consideration in Congress purports to advance economic opportunity and make government more accountable and responsible to the people. After learning about the details of the Contract, we question the sincerity of these goals. In recent weeks, we have heard about proposals which would:

- deny many young people the opportunity to attend college
- punish the poorest people for their economic status
- undo decades of efforts to reduce racism and other forms of discrimination
- allow big business to evade social and environmental responsibility

Congressional forces who won the last election claim to be acting on these measures IN OUR NAME.

However, this slim electoral victory is no automatic mandate to enact mean-spirited laws that were disguised during the election campaign. We must make it clear that if these measures are enacted, it will be WITHOUT OUR CONSENT. We therefore call for a National Day of Campus Action against the Contract with America on March 29.

We call for students, faculty and staff to organise forums, rallies, pickets, teach-ins, direct action or other activities to educate their campuses and communities, and to build resistance to the reactionary agenda of social inequality and environmental disregard proposed in the Contract.

## CALL FOR SOLIDARITY

Communities across the country are now mobilising to stop portions of the Contract which would eliminate popular government programs and protections. While local authorities may focus on one or two key issues, we are also acting on March 29 to show solidarity with people resisting other parts of the Contract, including those working to:

1. Save student aid and increase funding for education: Newt Gingrich has said that Pell Grants insult students by insinuating that they are too lazy to pay for their college education. It is estimated that the proposed cuts would affect 6 million students and shove as many as 2 million students out of higher education.
2. Preserve pro-environmental regulation: The fine print in the "Job Creation and Wage Enhancement Act" will gut

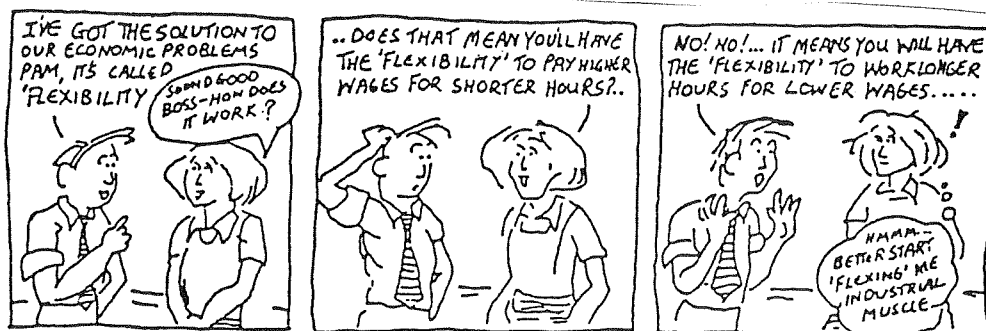
environmental protections.

3. Protect and extend women's rights: The fine print in the "Taking Back our Streets Act" would repeal the Violence against Women Act, and while the Contract with America sought to avoid mentioning the divisive abortion issue, Republicans attempted to take funding for the defence of abortion clinics out of the proposed Crime Bill.

4. Defend the rights of poor people and end poverty: The "Personal Responsibility Act" would impose punitive restrictions on poor women and their children, as well as recipients of any form of government assistance, by freezing additional benefits for children born on welfare or to mothers under 18, and reducing benefits if paternity is not established.

5. Prevent the scape goating of immigrants: Proposition 187 in California has already cut off thousands of immigrants from basic survival measures. Proposals contained in the fine print of the "Personal Responsibility Act" would also deny government benefits to "documented" immigrants.

6. Resist the attacks on gays, lesbians and bisexuals: Although the Right has attempted to tone





# Manerplaw Falls with use of Chemical Weapons

down its anti gay rhetoric during the first 100 days of republican power in Congress, there is no denying the use of bigotry by those who stand behind the Contract with America. Many candidates who signed the Contract circulated anti-gay videos as part of their campaign, supported anti-gay referenda in places like Colorado and Oregon, and advocated stiff criminal penalties for "homosexual behaviour".

We must begin immediately to organise and mobilise in our campuses and our communities to build opposition the right's agenda. Joining with others acting simultaneously to resist the Contract will increase national visibility and strengthen our movement of opposition. We advocate a long term perspective. Because the Right is well organised enough to even use a defeat of the Contract to its advantage on the election, it will be necessary for us to do more than try to stop specific bills from passing. It will be necessary to use this debate to inform the public about the anti-democratic nature of the Right's agenda and about the alliance between big business and fundamentalist religious groups working to seize political power.

The real action depends on YOU!

- **UCP/Center for Campus Organising.**



SLORC's move to engage in peaceful negotiations were nothing but empty words. While the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) junta of Burma was making peace overtures to leaders of the democratic movement, orders came in from Rangoon for the military to overrun the Manerplaw base of the Karen people by February 2, by any means possible.

The headquarters of the 21 year old Karen resistance movement fell on 26 January 1995, with the use of chemical weapons and modern weaponry purchased to the tune of US \$1.2 billion from countries such as China, Poland, Portugal, Singapore and South Korea. The Burmese military junta signed the Geneva convention of 1949 in 1992 but has refused to sign the First Protocol Additional which covers among others, the use of chemical weapons. Swedish made chemical weapons are known to be widely available to SLORC, imported through Singapore, and are often used in the attack of civilians and military camps. The chemicals are dispersed in shells which

explode soon after being released, to reveal small bombs which explode 50 feet above the ground spreading splinters and poisons over 50 feet. Those who survive the explosion end up paralysed by the chemicals.

The headquarters was not only an

important base for the Karen National Union (KNU), but also housed the exiled democratic government and an information clearing house for many of the resistance groups fighting the military junta since 1988. On several occasions, ASA members visited this site and learnt about the democratic struggle of the Burmese students and the different ethnic groups.

The tit for tat battle between the resistance groups and the Burmese military has been waged in the jungles surrounding Manerplaw for years. It has seen the loss of many lives, including numerous civilians, often used by the military junta as slave porters or human shields against any attack. In the wet season, the fighting stops as each side regrouped and stocked up for the next onslaught. The resistance waged in this manner was an important aspect in the efforts by the democratic forces to push for a diplomatic solution to the military junta.

The KNU and other democratic forces have pledged to continue the armed struggle from surrounding jungles and establish new camps. They have also exposed the six member ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) policy of 'constructive engagement' which has strengthened the position of the military junta, as they happily join in regional and bilateral discussions, giving credibility to an authoritarian regime. Constructive engagement has allowed the ASEAN businesses to join the USA, Japanese, Chinese and South Korean businesses in extracting resources from this impoverished country.

- **ASA Movement News, February 1995.**



# MEXICAN OFFENSIVE AGAINST ZAPATISTAS

13 February

New incursions by the Mexican army into the southern state of Chiapas could renew armed conflict and give rise to torture and other gross human rights violations, Amnesty International said today, as it called on President Ernesto Zedillo to ensure full respect for human rights.

"Torture of prisoners to force confessions is a widespread practice of the Mexican security forces", AI said today. "We are seriously concerned those arrested and those facing detention could be tortured following the recent army incursions."

AI is investigating a number of unconfirmed reports of summary executions, arbitrary arrests and torture carried out by members of the Mexican army and the federal judicial police in the context of the latest military operations against the Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN).

Army incursions have been reported in the towns of Larrainzar, Simojovel, Morelia and several other areas. The military operations in Chiapas, which have been shrouded in secrecy, are reportedly planned to last 5 days.

Fresh reports of arrest warrants and intimidation against political activists and members of Non Governmental Organisations in Chiapas and other Mexican states have increased AI's concern about their safety.

Widespread gross human rights violations by members of the army were reported during the beginning of the Chiapas conflict in January 1994. The most frequent victims of

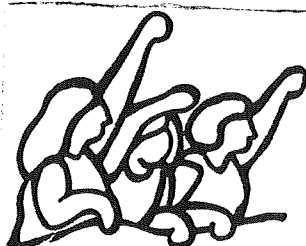
violations have been impoverished Indian peasants. AI is concerned that the latest developments might lead to further widespread human rights violations in Chiapas and elsewhere.

Those latest developments followed President Ernesto Zedillo's announcement on 9 February that he had ordered the arrest of top EZLN leaders, marking an end to the on going peace negotiations. On 8 February, at least 8 alleged EZLN members were arrested. Dozens of others face arrest warrants, including the man known as Sub-Commandante Marcos, the movements leader.

Over the past year, AI has documented scores of cases of serious human rights violations by the Mexican army, including summary executions of prisoners, arbitrary arrest and torture of civilians and "disappearances". For their part, the EZLN took hostages who were later released unharmed.

While welcoming the 1994 peace negotiations between the Mexican govt and the EZLN, AI has been increasingly concerned about the prevailing impunity for human rights violations in Chiapas during the armed conflict and thereafter. A year later, none of those responsible have been brought to justice.

The 1994 peace negotiations



lasted until the end of the year, when new armed clashes between the Army and the EZLN were feared.

16 February

In the week since the clamp down against the EZLN, AI has received new reports of serious human rights violations. The organisation has confirmed that scores of people have been arbitrarily detained and reportedly tortured and ill treated in Chiapas, Mexico City and other parts of the country. Several remain 'disappeared'.

AI has also confirmed reports of dozens of cases of death threats and intimidation against human rights monitors and civil rights activists. While constitutional guarantees were not suspended in the area of conflict, the army carried out arrests of civilians and effectively prevented free access and transit to journalists, human rights monitors and even an International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

During the latest operations the Mexican army regained control of most of the territory previously held by the rebels in the jungle areas of Chiapas, but top leaders remain at large. On February 14 President Zedillo halted the military offensive, and called for renewed negotiations with the EZLN, and on Feb 15 he called on Congress to approve an amnesty for all those who put down their arms.

From a series of Amnesty  
International postings on  
the Internet.

# Letters to the Network

Dear AYN,

As a keen Hamilton subscriber and reader of AYN up here in the Waikato, I would like to congratulate the team who produce the AYN for its high quality of publication. The presentation and layout are excellent, and the contents both informative and interesting.

However, recent articles and 'pictures' have compelled me to respond. Issue 19 contained a caption of one these horrible 'white males' making money and profits in a grossly unrealistic representation, and the bottom line is the caption served no purpose at all except to slander a large number of AYN readers for no apparent reason. I'm sure that if a cartoon was placed in AYN depicting all feminists as lesbians who did nothing but insult and abuse the male population there would be much dissatisfaction among readers, so why the 'white male' cartoon? Maybe the person who placed it in would make the effort to explain it. After AYN does not print anything "...overtly racist, sexist ...".

Also, pieces of John Tovey's article in issue 20 came across as nothing more than hysterical, racist and biased information which clearly lacked any hard facts. Did John consider that since only 35 people turned up at Parliament for the booklet burning compared to 250 for the East Timor protest that there may be a bit more support for the Fiscal Envelope than he anticipated? And from John's final paragraph, where he clearly assumes that the "pakeha masses" know next to nothing about the historical basis for Maori grievances, may I ask John what percentage of "Maori masses" are aware of the historical basis for grievances, and even what step further, what percentage of Maori

are even opposed to the Fiscal Envelope? Surely John is not relying on the hyped up sensationalism crated by the television channels as evidence for Maori opposition to the Fiscal Envelope.

Yours sincerely,

Stefan Fairweather.

(Dear Stefan, thanks for your letter, and for the criticisms. I'll let John Tovey or anyone else respond to the substance of your comments on his article, except to say that clearly the vast majority of Iwi and Maori groups have rejected the Fiscal Envelope. As to the question of pictures in AYN - we put pictures in to both amuse, inform and to break up big blocks of text. As very few pictures are sent to us (we would love more!), we have to find most of these ourselves. This is harder than you would think, and I have talked to a number of people who produce magazines, all of whom are desperate for illustrations. So sometimes we put in what we can find. The picture that annoyed you was taken from a paper produced by the Progressive Student Network in the US a group who we are in touch with. What I was trying to do when I put it in? Basically, put in some pictures!

Your letter has made me realise that we tend to look at articles more closely than pictures for content that may offend. This is something we should watch, agreed. However, I was not personally offended by the picture - sure, it's a stereotype, sure, it's probably not the most intelligent cartoon ever. But I can't get too worked up about it. It would be interesting to hear what other people think about this cartoon and other pictures that we have put in. And please, do send some so that we don't have to go looking so much!!!

Joss.)

Dear Comrades,

I am writing on behalf of the Bolshevik Club to present our proposal for a Socialist Students National Conference in 1995. The Bolshevik Club is a student and youth organisation active on Victoria University Campus, and is in political solidarity with the Permanent Revolution Group (NZ section of the International Bolshevik Tendency).

We see the proposed conference as an opportunity for debate and discussion on issues facing socialists. The conference will be open to socialist or radical-left organisations and their supporters, and to individuals who see themselves as having socialist or radical-left politics. It will be orientated primarily, but not solely toward young people.

The conference would take the form of debates, workshops and forums on various topics. Debates would involve presentations by different groups on particular topics followed by discussion from the floor. Forums and workshops would be run by groups or individuals volunteering to hold them in allocated times, the exact form of the session could be determined by the organiser of the session.

There are two important deviations from past conferences this year.

Firstly, we have had to consider a new time for the conference due to the gradual introduction of semester systems in universities around the country. Previously we have had the conference in the May holidays. This year, however, there is no uniform break in May for universities. Therefore we have decided to organise the conference for the Easter break.

# The first sign of things to come under GATT?

NZ is now allowing imports of Canadian salmon, which were banned for a decade. They were banned due to the possibility of introducing disease to NZ salmon. So why is it now ok to import Canadian salmon? Because we have to let it in under GATT. Australia is now the only country not allowing imports of Canadian salmon. Canada has initiated proceedings under GATT against Australia.

Particularly April 15, 16 and 17.

Secondly, it turns out that there is an Anarchist conference in Wellington during the Easter break. We have approached the organisers of this conference and they have agreed that some form of interchange between the two conferences would be useful. This interchange will probably consist of no more than timing the two events so that people will have an opportunity to attend (at least part of) both conferences during the Easter break.

Therefore our proposal is as follows:

That there be a conference committee made up of a representative from each of the participating groups, conducting its work by phone and mail. In addition there should be a working group based in Wellington with responsibility for the day to day pre conference organisation (food, fun, etc.) This working group would be subordinate to the conference committee.

The conference committee would be responsible for organising discussion of the agenda, producing conference newsletters and overseeing the advertising of the conference on a national scale.

We would expect the conference committee to make decisions by consensus and negotiated agreement.

The Permanent Revolution Group has made its office, located in downtown Wellington, available for the Conference.

Billeting will be provided for out of towners.

We would like to have a second conference newsletter circulating reasonably soon. It will contain commitments of involvement by different organisations and a first draft of the agenda.

To start discussion of the agenda we present the following initial suggestions for topics below. We stress that these are not final in any way and invite further suggestions or criticisms.

- The National Question in NZ.
- Realignments on the left after the collapse of the USSR.
- Struggles in South East Asia.
- The Trade Union movement and Workplace Reform.
- Women in the Third World
- Sex and Socialism.

We look forward to your positive response to this proposal and particularly your input into the agenda.

- **Comradely greetings,**  
**Rhys Kelly**, for the Bolshevik Club. (04) 499 5059, PO Box 9671, Wellington.

# Coming Up

**ACT Otago Region Conference.**  
Early April. If you want to be involved in organising protests, contact Joss, ph. 467 5352.

**Anti-McDeath Protest.**  
April 15th, 40th Anniversary of McDonald's opening. Write to the McLibel Support Campaign, PO Box 14-156 Wellington.

**5th Annual Anarchist Conference.**  
Workshops, networking, stimulation, skills.  
Easter Weekend, Wellington.  
Contact: Committee for the Establishment of Civilisation, PO Box 14-156, Kilbirnie, Wellington.

**World Day for Lab Animals.**  
April 24th. Contact Animal Info, Box 22 459 Christchurch for info.

**Asia Development Bank Meeting**  
early May, Auckland.  
If interested in organising protest actions, write to Auckland Unemployed Workers Rights Centre, 33 Wyndham St, Auckland.

**Asia - Pacific Students Meeting.**  
Early May, Auckland. Write to Bruce Cronin at Auckland University Students Association for info.

**Tour of Leonor Briones from the Freedom From Debt Coalition, Philippines.**  
April - May. Write to the Philippines Solidarity Network, PO Box 2450, Christchurch if you want to help organise the tour.

**National Day of Action on Timor.**  
May 12.

**In the Heart of the City.**  
A training and development programme for young people in social service and transformation. May 7 - 19.  
Write to Andrew Botting, Anglican Centre, PO Box 12 046, Wellington.

# Regional Contacts

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Fax: 838-0398.

(If anyone else from Christchurch would like to be a contact please get in touch with the collective in Dunedin and Melanie in Christchurch)

## Palmerston North:

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## Minimum Wages from 22 March:

16 - 19 years  
\$3.75 an hour. \$150 before tax for 40 hour week.

20 + years. \$6.25 an hour. \$250 before tax for 40 hour week.

If you don't read anything else in this AYN, read the accounts of the US student's protests. The reason? Well, it partly has special meaning for those of us who were attacked by our 'Boys (and Women) in Blue' in 1993 in Dunedin, and possibly for all those who have been done over by the cops. The anger, shock and sadness is the same. The sense of wishing to strike back, but also feeling paralysed is the same.

But more than this, it illustrates to me that our struggles and causes are international, and that the reactions of the elite and the state is similar everywhere. Maybe we are lucky compared to the US, or the Philippines, or other places. But how far are we really away from more blatant oppression? I don't think that we are that far away. The violence of the police and the state are only beneath the surface.

Presently, US Students are opposing a reactionary agenda which will throw millions out of society, literally. They are not just acting against education cut backs, but are taking up the issues of society as a whole. In the past few years some of us have been battling to get NZ students to do the same - something which is starting to happen.

I really believe that we should be acting at the same time and around the same issues as young people all across the world. Students in the US are mobilising on March 29 - now NZUSA is considering small actions in solidarity with them and for our own causes. Though small, this is a large step forward. Lets hope that there are many more such actions!

Joss

## Subscriptions:

\$9 Unwaged / Student

\$18 Waged

\$25 Organisation

\$50 Institution

This subscription is for a whole year (12 issues). If you cannot afford this, write to us and we will send you AYN anyway. We appreciate any and all articles, news, art, criticism and gossip!

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